

# Canadian University Extension Association.

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## BULLETIN I.

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About twenty years ago a movement to popularize higher education in England was begun under the auspices of the University of Cambridge. The aim of that movement was to extend to the masses of the people who were unable to obtain the advantages of a university training such educational facilities as could be given by trained lecturers sent out from the University.

The Cambridge experiment has been carried on ever since, and its early success prompted the organization in 1876 of the "London Society for the Extension of University Teaching," the aim of which was to do similar work in the London Metropolitan district. In 1878, the University of Oxford joined in the movement, and more recently the four Universities of Scotland and the two in the north of England have taken up the work. In 1889, a society for the extension of university teaching was formed in the north of Ireland and, in 1890, a similar society was organized for the United States with its headquarters in the City of Philadelphia.

That the university extension movement has met a felt want in England is clear from its marvellously rapid progress. In the session of 1889-90 the number of local centres at which extension work was carried on under the auspices of the University of Cambridge was 85; the number of courses, 125; the average attendance, 11,595; the number of students examined, 1,732; and the number of certificates granted, 1,585. The numbers for the University of Oxford and for the London Society are in each case only a little less than for Cambridge. University extension work has reached all classes and has done more to promote the higher culture of the masses of the people than any educational movement ever before organized.

University extension work in England has during these twenty years been thoroughly systematized. It consists of (1) a course of lectures, usually about ten in each course; (2) a class discussion after or before each

lecture ; (3) a syllabus of topics covered by the course of lectures ; (4) a weekly written paper on subjects set by the teacher ; (5) a written examination at the conclusion of the course ; and (6) a certificate to those who pass the final examination and write a certain number of successful weekly exercises. The management of each system of extension work is in the hands of some central organization. The work at each "local centre" is carried on by a local committee which provides the funds and the accommodation and transacts the business.

On the 5th and 6th November, 1891, at a conference held in Toronto to discuss the subject of university extension for Canada, a "Canadian Association for the Extension of University Teaching" was formed, its object being "to bring within reach of the people opportunities of sharing in the benefits of higher education." The management of the affairs of this Association was entrusted to a "Council" made up of (a) three representatives from each university in the Dominion, and one from each college affiliated to a university ; (b) the Minister or Superintendent of Education for the time being in each province or territory of the Dominion ; and (c) three representatives elected by the Provincial Association of Teachers in each province of the Dominion. The "Council" is required by the constitution to appoint an Executive Committee composed exclusively of representatives of universities, and to this Committee, in conjunction with the officers of the Association is entrusted the duty of appointing the lecturers and examiners and of undertaking "the general supervision of the teaching."

The officers of the Association are as follows :—

*President.*—Sir Donald A. Smith, Chancellor of McGill University, Montreal.

*Vice-Presidents.*—Hon. G. W. Allan, Chancellor of Trinity University, Toronto ; Hon. Edward Blake, Q.C., Chancellor of the University of Toronto ; Sandford Fleming, C.M.G., Chancellor of Queen's University, Kingston ; L'Abbe Laflamme, Laval University, Quebec ; Goldwin Smith, D.C.L.

*Treasurer.*—J. H. Plummer, Assistant General Manager, Canadian Bank of Commerce.

*Secretary.*—Wm. Houston, M.A., Librarian to the Ontario Legislature.

On the 6th January a meeting of the Council of the Association was held in Toronto, at which representatives were present from several universities in Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick. At this meeting the following resolution was adopted as to the organization of local centres :—

"Each local committee shall be required to furnish a guarantee fund of not less than \$150 for each course of lectures, the local committee to pay the lecturer for each lecture the fee settled by the Executive Committee,

to procure suitable accommodation, to defray all travelling expenses, to arrange for the accommodation of the lecturer, to defray the cost of printing the syllabuses and examination papers, to pay postage, and to contribute \$5 for each course of lectures to the central fund of the Association."

It was also resolved that "certificates be issued by the Council to all candidates whom the Executive Committee shall from time to time report as having complied with the prescribed requirements, and as having successfully passed the final examination in any course of lectures."

The Executive Committee, which includes all the representatives of universities on the Council, resolved itself at a meeting, held on the same day, into sub-committees "for the purpose of appointing lecturers and examiners in the various Provinces of the Dominion," their action to be from time to time reported to the Executive Committee. Under the organization the members of the Executive Committee representing the universities of Ontario will act for Ontario; those representing the Universities of Quebec will act for Quebec; those representing the universities of New Brunswick will act for New Brunswick; those representing the universities of Nova Scotia will act for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island; and those representing the universities of Manitoba and the North-west Territory will act for Manitoba, the North-west Territory, and British Columbia.

By resolutions of the Executive Committee it was declared that no lecturer should be appointed except on the nomination of the faculty of some university represented on the Council; that each "course" should include ten lectures; that the lecturer should in all cases be one of the two final examiners; that the local committee should have the right to fix the fee for each course; and that the minimum remuneration of the lecturer should be \$10 per lecture of the course.

The Council believe that the extension of the advantages of higher education throughout the Dominion in the manner indicated, will be of the greatest advantage to the country, and they invite the cordial co-operation of the various universities and communities to commence the work, during the winter of 1892-3, on as large a scale as possible.

Inquiries with regard to the work may be addressed to the Secretary. Signed on behalf of the Council.

C. W. E. BODY. M.A., D.C.L.

T. H. RAND, D.C.L.

WM. HOUSTON, M.A.,

Secretary.

TORONTO, May 1st, 1892.



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